

# Southern California Water Committee, Inc.

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SEP 28 1998

September 24, 1998

Mr. Lester Snow, Executive Director  
CALFED Bay Delta Program  
1416 Ninth Street  
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Lester:

This letter represents the comments of the Southern California Water Committee's Bay Delta Task Force, supported by the SCWC Executive Committee, on the CALFED Bay Delta Program draft Framework for Selecting a Draft Preferred Alternative.

We are alarmed about the current direction of CALFED and the shift of the Bay Delta Program from the original approach of selecting an Alternative based on a technically superior performance to a phased implementation approach which makes no commitment to a technically supportable solution.

CALFED's analysis indicates that a dual conveyance facility in the Delta has the greatest potential to satisfy the Bay Delta Program solution principles and program objectives and yet the proposed staged approach makes no commitment to assuring the benefits to Southern California that such a facility would provide.

The Southern California Water Committee, and its coalition of county and city elected officials, agricultural and business leaders, water agency representatives, and private citizens, has endorsed Alternative 3 because it provides export water quality, limited diversion effects on fisheries, Delta flow circulation, water supply opportunities, operational flexibility, and less risk to export water supplies. As we commented on May 28, 1998, the CALFED program's own analysis leads directly to Alternative 3.

The Southern California Water Committee is greatly concerned that CALFED's proposed staging approach defers and delays making the hard, but important decisions regarding the long term, best solution to the problems in the Bay Delta. Recommending second best or third best improvements to the ecosystem and fisheries is unacceptable in terms of CALFED's own solution principles. By refusing to proceed with the technically superior alternative, you are transferring a huge burden of regulatory risk to the California economy. We cannot wait for seven years for a decision on an isolated facility.

*A cooperative effort of business, government, water agencies, agriculture, and public interests.*

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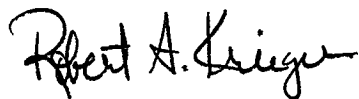
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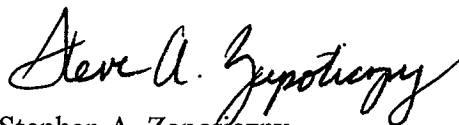
CALFED's proposed Stage 1 actions do not address Southern California's needs for improved water quality or increased water reliability. We require safe drinking water supplies from the Bay Delta in order to ensure our region's public health. Southern California must have protection for existing Bay Delta water supplies and have the ability to capture and store water in wet years to use during dry years. Our \$500 billion economy deserves no less.

The Southern California Water Committee has looked to the CALFED Program as the best means of finally resolving the issues and achieving the long awaited objective of a Delta "fix". We strongly urge you to resume pursuit of a balanced and technically supportable solution. CALFED's objectives must move in parallel and all program elements must be implemented simultaneously. We believe that Southern California's needs can be met in conjunction with the needs of the rest of California. It will be a catastrophe if CALFED fails to do so.

Very truly yours,



Robert A. Krieger  
Chairman



Stephen A. Zapolichny  
Chair, Bay Delta Advisory Task Force

cc: Bay Delta Advisory Task Force  
SCWC Executive Committee

Southern California Water Committee, Inc.

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